
HOUSE BILL No. 1560

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 6-1.1-22-8.

Synopsis: Property tax informational statements. Amends the informational statement the county treasurer mails to taxpayers. Requires mailing of the statement to the last known address of each person liable for the property taxes or special assessments as shown on the tax duplicate or special assessment records. Eliminates the requirement for mailing the statement to personal property taxpayers.

Effective: July 1, 2005.

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January 18, 2005, read first time and referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

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Introduced

First Regular Session 114th General Assembly (2005)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2004 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1560

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning taxation.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 6-1.1-22-8 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
2 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2005]: Sec. 8. (a) The county
3 treasurer shall either:

4 (1) mail to the last known address of each person liable for any
5 property taxes or special assessment, as shown on the tax
6 duplicate or special assessment records, or to the last known
7 address of the most recent owner shown in the transfer book a
8 statement of current and delinquent taxes and special
9 assessments; or

10 (2) transmit by written, electronic, or other means to a mortgagee
11 maintaining an escrow account for a person who is liable for any
12 property taxes or special assessments, as shown on the tax
13 duplicate or special assessment records a statement of current and
14 delinquent taxes and special assessments.

15 (b) The county treasurer may include the following in the statement:

16 (1) An itemized listing for each property tax levy, including:
17 (A) the amount of the tax rate;



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(B) the entity levying the tax owed; and

(C) the dollar amount of the tax owed.

(2) Information designed to inform the taxpayer or mortgagee clearly and accurately of the manner in which the taxes billed in the tax statement are to be used.

A form used and the method by which the statement and information, if any, are transmitted must be approved by the state board of accounts. The county treasurer may mail or transmit the statement and information, if any, one (1) time each year at least fifteen (15) days before the date on which the first or only installment is due. Whenever a person's tax liability for a year is due in one (1) installment under IC 6-1.1-7-7 or section 9 of this chapter, a statement that is mailed must include the date on which the installment is due and denote the amount of money to be paid for the installment. Whenever a person's tax liability is due in two (2) installments, a statement that is mailed must contain the dates on which the first and second installments are due and denote the amount of money to be paid for each installment.

(c) All payments of property taxes and special assessments shall be made to the county treasurer. The county treasurer, when authorized by the board of county commissioners, may open temporary offices for the collection of taxes in cities and towns in the county other than the county seat.

(d) Before July 1, 2004, the department of local government finance shall designate five (5) counties to participate in a pilot program to implement the requirements of subsection (e). The department shall immediately notify the county treasurer, county auditor, and county assessor in writing of the designation under this subsection. The legislative body of a county not designated for participation in the pilot program may adopt an ordinance to implement the requirements of subsection (e). The legislative body shall submit a copy of the ordinance to the department of local government finance, which shall monitor the county's implementation of the requirements of subsection (e) as if the county were a participant in the pilot program. The requirements of subsection (e) apply:

(1) only in:

(A) a county designated to participate in a pilot program under this subsection, for property taxes first due and payable after December 31, 2004, and before January 1, 2008; or

(B) a county adopting an ordinance under this subsection, for property taxes first due and payable after December 31, 2003, or December 31, 2004 (as determined in the ordinance), and before January 1, 2008; and

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(2) in all counties for taxes first due and payable after December 31, 2007.

(e) Subject to subsection (d) **and except as provided in subsection (h)**, regardless of whether a county treasurer transmits a statement of current and delinquent taxes and special assessments to a person liable for the taxes under subsection (a)(1) or to a mortgagee under subsection (a)(2), the county treasurer shall mail the following information to the last known address of each person liable for the property taxes or special assessments, **as shown on the tax duplicate or special assessment records**, or to the last known address of the most recent owner shown in the transfer book. The county treasurer shall mail the information not later than the date the county treasurer transmits a statement for the property under subsection (a)(1) or (a)(2). The county treasurer, county auditor, and county assessor shall cooperate to generate the information to be included on the form. The information that must be provided is the following:

(1) A breakdown showing the total property tax and special assessment liability and the amount of the taxpayer's liability that will be distributed to each taxing unit in the county.

(2) A comparison showing any change in the assessed valuation for the property as compared to the previous year.

(3) A comparison showing any change in the property tax and special assessment liability for the property as compared to the previous year. The information required under this subdivision must identify

~~(A)~~ the amount of the taxpayer's liability distributable to each taxing unit in which the property is located in the current year and in the previous year. ~~and~~

~~(B) the percentage change, if any, in the amount of the taxpayer's liability distributable to each taxing unit in which the property is located from the previous year to the current year.~~

(4) An explanation of the following:

(A) The homestead credit and all property tax deductions.

(B) The procedure and deadline for filing for the homestead credit and each deduction.

(C) The procedure that a taxpayer must follow to:

(i) appeal a current assessment; or

(ii) petition for the correction of an error related to the taxpayer's property tax and special assessment liability.

(D) The forms that must be filed for an appeal or petition described in clause (C).

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The department of local government finance shall provide the explanation required by this subdivision to each county treasurer.

(5) A checklist that shows:

(A) the homestead credit and all property tax deductions; and

(B) whether the homestead credit and each property tax deduction applies in the current statement for the property transmitted under subsection (a)(1) or (a)(2).

(f) The information required to be mailed under subsection (e) must be simply and clearly presented and understandable to the average individual.

(g) A county that incurs:

(1) initial computer programming costs directly related to implementation of the requirements of subsection (e); or

(2) printing costs directly related to mailing information under subsection (e);

shall submit an itemized statement of the costs to the department of local government finance for reimbursement from the state. The treasurer of state shall pay a claim approved by the department of local government finance and submitted under this section on a warrant of the auditor of state. However, the treasurer of state may not pay any additional claims under this subsection after the total amount of claims paid reaches fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).

(h) The county treasurer is not required to mail information under subsection (e) to persons liable for property tax on personal property.

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